

To: REGION03.TAT (EPA9322)
To: W.LEE (EPA9346)
From: REGION03.TAT (EPA9322) Delivered: Fri 29-Sep-89 13:18 EDT S
Subject: PUROLITE POLREP 2
Mail Id: IFM-163-890929-119750781

DRAFT POLREP 2
PUROLITE CHEMICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE
Q AND ERIE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PA
ATTN: GREGG CRYSTALL, CHARLIE KLEEMAN AND TIM FIELDS

I. SITUATION (THURSDAY, 9/28/89, 1700 HOURS)

A. THE FIRE WHICH OCCURRED AT THE PUROLITE CHEMICAL FACILITY WHICH EPA RESPONDED TO AT THE REQUEST OF THE PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT (PFD) WAS DECLARED UNDER CONTROL AT 0200 HOURS. EPA WAS ABOUT TO RETURN TO THE SCENE TO CONDUCT AIR MONITORING AND ASSESS THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING FOR ENTRY BY PFD AND PUROLITE PERSONNEL.

B. PERSONNEL ON SCENE-
EPA-2
TAT-6
PFD-5 COMPANIES

II. ACTIONS TAKEN

A. OSC LEE AND TAT RETURNED TO THE PUROLITE FACILITY AT 1000 HOURS THIS DATE. THE FIRE WAS STILL SMOLDERING AND LARGE AMOUNTS OF SMOKE WERE BEING GENERATED. PERIMETER AIR MONITORING REVEALED NO LEVELS OF ORGANIC VAPORS ABOVE BACKGROUND NOR ANY LEVELS OF ACIDS OR CYANIDES. RESIDENTS EVACUATED FROM THE AREA HAD RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. PFD REQUESTED AN ENTRY BE MADE INTO THE BUILDING TO EVALUATE THE INTEGRITY OF THE PROCESS VESSELS AND STORAGE TANKS AND TO QUANTIFY LEVELS OF HAZARDOUS VAPORS WHICH MIGHT BE PRESENT IN THE BUILDING.

B. TAT MADE AN ENTRY INTO THE BUILDING AT 1200 HOURS WITH PFD. THE INTEGRITIES OF THE VESSELS WERE SATISFACTORY. THE BROMINE REACTOR, WHICH CONTAINED 125 LBS OF BROMINATED RESIN, WAS LEAKING SLIGHTLY BUT WAS NOT ACTIVELY DISCHARGING BROMINE VAPOR. ORGANIC VAPOR AIR MONITORING REVEALED LEVELS OF 10 PPM ABOVE BACKGROUND.

C. AFTER DISCUSSION BETWEEN OSC LEE, PFD JANDA AND TAT, IT WAS DECIDED THAT NO ONE SHOULD ENTER THE BUILDING WITHOUT RESPIRATORY PROTECTION DUE TO THE LEVELS OF ORGANIC VAPORS IN THE AIR. ANOTHER ENTRY WAS REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF LEVEL C WAS APPROPRIATE FOR FILTERING OUT THE CONTAMINANTS.

100032

D. TAT MADE A SECOND ENTRY INTO THE BUILDING AT 1400 HOURS WITH AN ORGANIC VAPOR ANALYZER, EQUIPPED WITH A CARBON FILTER. NO ORGANIC VAPOR LEVELS ABOVE BACKGROUND WERE NOTED DURING THIS ENTRY. BASED ON THESE RESULTS, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT LEVEL C WAS THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF PROTECTION FOR ENTRY INTO THE BUILDING.

E. DUE TO THE LACK OF LEVEL C EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO THE PED, THE FIRE MARSHALL DELAYED HIS INVESTIGATION OF THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE UNTIL 9/29/89. PFD REQUESTED EPA TO AGAIN BE ON SCENE TO CONDUCT FURTHER AIR MONITORING.

F. OSC LEE AND TAT OFFSITE 1500 HOURS.

III. FUTURE PLANS

A. EPA TO RETURN TO SITE ON 9/29/89 TO AGAIN CONDUCT AIR MONITORING IN THE FACILITY AND ASSESS ANY REMAINING HAZARDS IN THE FACILITY.

WALTER LEE, OSC
EPA REGION III
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